

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) A joint for bullet traps, the joint comprising:
  - a first plate;
  - a second plate; and
  - a facing strip having a first end and a second end with lateral edges extending along the sides therebetween configured for engaging the first plate and the second plate, the facing strip being bent so as to slope outwardly toward the first plate and the second plate and contact the first plate and the second plate at lateral edges of the facing plate strip.
2. (Original) The joint for bullet traps of claim 1, wherein the facing strip further comprises at least one bracket attached thereto for receiving a bolt.
3. (Original) The joint for bullet traps of claim 2, wherein the at least one bracket comprises an opening for sliding a bolt into the bracket.
4. (Original) The joint for bullet traps of claim 2, wherein the at least one bracket comprises at least two brackets each having an opening for receiving a bolt, and wherein the openings on the at least two brackets are disposed on opposite sides of the brackets from one another.

5. (Original) The joint for bullet traps of claim 1, wherein the facing strip has walls extending rearwardly to the first plate and the second plate at an angle of about 12.5 degrees.

6. (Currently Amended) The joint for bullet traps of claim 1, wherein only portion of the facing strip which touches the first plate and the second plate are the lateral edges extending the length of the facing strip.

7. (Currently Amended) A joint strip for attaching plates of a bullet trap, the joint strip comprising:  
a facing strip having a bent central portion and walls having lateral edges extending substantially the length of the facing strip and extending away from the bent central portion; and  
at least one bracket attached to the facing strip for engaging a bolt so as to hold the bolt to the facing strip.

8. (Original) The joint strip according to claim 7, wherein the walls extend rearwardly from the bent central portion at an angle of about 12.5 degrees.

9. (Original) The joint strip according to claim 7, wherein the at least one bracket comprises a plurality of brackets, each of the brackets having an opening for receiving a bolt and at least two of the brackets having the opening on opposing sides thereof.

10. (Currently Amended) A joint strip for attaching a pair of steel plates together, the

joint strip comprising:

a facing strip configured to engage a pair of steel plates; and

at least one bracket attached to the facing strip and having an opening for receiving the head of a bolt and for holding the bolt to the joint facing strip.

11. (Currently Amended) The joint strip according to claim 10, wherein the at least one bracket comprises a plurality of brackets having openings, and wherein at least two of the brackets having openings disposed on opposite sides from ~~on~~ one another.

12. (Original) The joint strip according to claim 10, wherein the facing strip has two walls disposed about 155 degrees from one another.

13. (Currently Amended) A joint strip for attaching a pair of steel plates together, the joint strip comprising:

a facing strip defining a pair of sloped walls extending outwardly and rearwardly from a central portion extending along a long axis of the facing strip and means for attaching a bolt to the facing strip.

14. (Currently Amended) The joint strip according to claim 13, further the means for attaching the bolt to the facing strip comprising a plurality of brackets fixedly attached to the facing strip, each of the brackets being configured to receive a bolt.

15. (Original) The joint strip according to claim 14, wherein at least two of the brackets have holes for receiving a bolt, the holes being disposed on opposing sides of the brackets.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing splatter through a opening in a bullet trap, the method comprising:

disposing first and second plates adjacent one another so as to leave an opening;  
placing a facing strip over the opening generally parallel to the opening so that the facing strip slopes rearwardly and outwardly into engagement with the first and second plates to secure the plates together.

17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 16, wherein the facing strip has lateral edges extending the length of the facing strip and wherein the only portion of the facing strip which engage the first and second plates is the lateral edges.

18. (Original) The method according to claim 16, wherein the facing strip has a plurality of brackets attached thereto, and wherein the method further comprises removably positioning bolts in the brackets.

19. (Original) The method according to claim 18, wherein the method further comprises selecting a facing plate strip whereon at least two of the brackets have openings for receiving the bolts, and wherein the openings are disposed on opposing sides of the brackets.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for forming a section of a bullet trap, the method comprising:

placing first and second plates adjacent one another so as to leave a seam therebetween; selecting a joint strip having a facing strip and a bracket attached to the facing strip for holding an end of a bolt to the facing strip independent of the bolt; and covering the seem seam between the plates with the facing strip so that the bolt extends through the seem-seam.

21. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 20, wherein the method comprises selecting a joint facing strip having a facing strip which is beveled to have two rearwardly extending walls terminating at lateral edges.

22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 21, wherein the method further comprises engaging the lateral edges of the facing strip with the first and second plates so that the only portion of the facing strip which touches the first and second plates is the lateral edges.

23. (Currently Withdrawn) A method for preventing splatter through between two plates disposed at a generally perpendicular angle, the method comprising:

disposing a first plate and a second plate so that the plates are disposed generally perpendicular;

attaching the first plate and the second plate to one another by a generally L-shaped angle joint; and

positioning a generally flat plate in front of the generally L-shaped angle joint so that the generally flat plate extends from the first plate to the second plate and thereby conceals the angle joint.